



# The Times Dispatch

## ALL HONOR TO HOLY ST. PATRICK



THE DISPATCH FOUNDED 1850.  
THE TIMES FOUNDED 1854.

WHOLE NUMBER 18,561.

RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1911.

THE WEATHER TO-DAY—Fair.

PRICE TWO CENTS

### LOCAL OFFICIALS TACKLE STANDARD

Oak Grove Magistrate  
Is Second to Judge  
Landis.

### WARRANTS ISSUED AGAINST AGENTS

Oil Corporations Face \$30,000  
Fine in Chesterfield Court on  
Charge of Peddling Without  
License—Sales Were  
Made From Tank  
Wagons.

If the stand taken by Magistrate L. W. Cheatham, of Oak Grove District, in Chesterfield county, on the edge of Richmond, backed by Commonwealth's Attorney J. M. Gregory, should be upheld by all the courts, the entire system of management of the sales of the great Standard Oil Company will be revolutionized. For the magistrate, in the discharge of the duties of his office, yesterday morning issued warrants against the agents in this city of the Standard, the National and the Richmond Oil companies, and said agents have been cited to appear before Squire Cheatham on March 24.

Little have the people of Richmond suspected that practically within her borders—as a second Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who is not afraid to tackle the alleged octopus and attempt to cut off one of its most important tentacles—in fact, a whole row of tentacles.

Must Face the Music. .... But the attempt has been made, and the die is cast. The warrants have been issued, but have been served, and the unfortunate agents must appear before the bar of Oak Grove justice, there to render an account for the deeds they are alleged to have done against the revenue laws of the State.

The specific charge is that the Standard and the other companies have been guilty of peddling oil on the streets of Swansboro without having previously paid a peddler's license. In other words, it is stated that the wagons drive about to stores, soliciting orders and delivering the goods at the same time, in the amount which the merchant desires.

It is contended that this differs from the lawful practice of first taking orders and later delivering them. —Now, it is the universal custom of the Standard to do its business in this way. It claims that it is best for itself and for the merchant to have its wagons travel about the streets, calling at stores, and there selling such quantities as are asked. But Squire Cheatham won't stand for it. The companies are in for a fine aggregating in the maximum \$30,000, and with no one knows how much more to come later.

Proceeding Unheard Of. The oil agents are flabbergasted. They never heard of such a proceeding before, and don't know what to do. They hope the Swansboro magistrate will put the Standard out of business, but it looks as though he might. A peddler's license everywhere would cost an immense sum of money, and would probably result in an advance of a cent or two on the gallon of oil. It is also expected that the agents will stand for this proceeding or be taken before agents to take orders before they are delivered.

Up to last night John D. Rockefeller had not expressed an opinion, but he is understood to have had night-long conferences with his legal advisers. The nervous attitude of the Oak Grove officials was the sensation in South Richmond yesterday.

Three Are Summoned. The papers referred to were served on J. Morton Graves, local agent for the Standard Oil Company; C. M. Little, agent of the National Oil Company, and H. W. Fessenden, South Richmond agent of the Richmond Oil Company, citing them to appear before Magistrate L. W. Cheatham in the Oak Grove court, Chesterfield county, on March 24, to answer to the charge of peddling without a license.

While only one instance of alleged violation of the revenue laws is cited in the warrants, Squire Cheatham yesterday stated that at least twenty counts would be charged to each of these three companies before the hearing, which means that they will each be open to fines amounting to \$10,000 each, making a total of \$30,000 into the public coffers if the allegations are proven. As a penalty for the infringement of the revenue law, the statutes impose a minimum fine of \$100 for each count and a maximum of \$500, each sale constituting a separate offense.

Put It Out of Business. Although the Standard Oil Company and all other like concerns in this country, have conducted their sales in the past by means of the tank wagon, which goes the rounds to each merchant's door, it is alleged that Squire Cheatham and County Constable Jurell, to discover the alleged violation of the peddling law in this method of sale. It is obvious that if the Chesterfield authorities are able to uphold their case, they will have outlandish "Kenesaw Mountain" Landis, and have struck a mortal blow at the Standard Oil industry.

It is a remarkable fact that in all the years of the tank wagon's existence, so far as can be learned, the legality of this method of sale has never been tested. It is evident, however, that before the battle is over and the Standard downed, there will be a legal clash of largest proportions, and one that will traverse the entire series of courts, from the least to the greatest.

The foundation upon which the charges against the three oil companies rests is the difference between delivery on order and peddling. De-

### LAUREL OFFICERS APPARENTLY WIN

Evidence in Inquiry  
Seems to Free Directors  
From Blame.

### DAVIS DISCLAIMS PERSONAL ANIMUS

Says He Acted in Good Faith,  
but Is in Turn Charged With  
Incompetency—Verdict Will  
Be Rendered When Steno-  
graphic Report Is  
Ready.

The inquiry by the State Board of Charities and Corrections into charges preferred in public print by George B. Davis, the resigned superintendent of the Laurel Industrial School, against the conduct of that institution by certain members of its board, was concluded late yesterday afternoon, so far as the taking of testimony was concerned, after the hearing had consumed practically the entire day. Upon the conclusion of the taking of testimony, the board went into a brief executive session, and then informed all connected with the investigation that it would reserve its opinion in the matter for at least two weeks, that the stenographic reports of the hearing might be reduced to writing, upon which material it would base its final decision.

It was the general and emphatic belief among those who followed the proceedings of the inquiry that the charges of Mr. Davis, so far as they reflected on the integrity of Charles Hutzler, E. A. Catlin and Thomas Pindexter, were absolutely without any foundation in fact and utterly disproven. It was the general opinion, however, that the investigation would very probably result in certain material changes regarding the conduct of the institution, such as a more rigid system of segregation of its inmates and a more thorough supervision and conservation of the school and its supplies.

Charges Against Davis. The charge of wastefulness of provisions and of dereliction or incompetency on the part of Mr. Davis while superintendent of the school were freely made by members of the board of the institution while on the stand. The accusations brought by Mr. Davis were said by him to have been directed and aimed, not at individuals, but at the system of the whole board running the school. He repeatedly disavowed any intention of reflecting upon the character or veracity of any official connected with the Laurel Industrial School, specifying Messrs. Hutzler, Catlin and Pindexter.

The taking of testimony, which was at times embittered by direct issues of fact between Mr. Hutzler and Mr. Davis, was brought to a somewhat unexpected close by Mr. Davis requesting the privilege of the floor. Once upon his feet, the former superintendent, who had also been a member of the board, declared most earnestly and fervently that his strictures upon the institution were not occasioned by malice, but that his motives were pure and his heart clean of all hatred. He said:

Solemn Avowal. "I do not fear criticism in the discharge of what I consider duty. Criticize me as you like; I can undergo it. I am willing to be crucified, if need be, and thrown out bodily. If by this means I can benefit the boys, I am prompted, and benefit the boys, I am prompted, gentlemen, by the highest and purest motives. I have no malicious intent. I can stand here and swear, or go before my God, with a consciousness, that I have done only what I thought was right and for the best—that I thought was best for the welfare of the institution, for the welfare of the boys, for the best interests of humanity, and for the good of the Commonwealth. I am not here to seek my own ends, but the ends of my God."

The hearing began at 10 o'clock, and was interrupted by a recess for dinner at 1:30, when it was adjourned until 3 o'clock. Promptly at 3 o'clock the investigation was reopened and the afternoon session continued until nearly 6 o'clock, the board remaining in executive session until dark.

Opening Session. The opening session was rendered a little lively by clashes between Mr. Davis and Charles Hutzler, president of the Laurel School. Mr. Davis was the first witness, and explained that he did not appear in the role of prosecutor. He was unattended by counsel, while the board was represented, or certain members of the board were represented, by Attorney Charles V. Meredith.

Mr. Davis began his testimony by asserting over and over again that he meant no reflection upon the honesty or integrity of any member of the board by anything he had said or written. He said that he was simply striving for the uplift of the boys, and thought he had a right, after severing all connection with the school, to criticize members of the school board for supplying the institution with goods. He did not think this was dignified, to say the least.

The witness then declared that Mr. Pindexter has on more than one occasion sold to the school meat that was not sound; that this meat was on two occasions returned as unfit for food, and that on a third occasion he had complained, without result.

Said Dry Goods. With regard to Mr. Hutzler, the witness complained that "it was in poor taste" that Mr. Hutzler, a dealer in dry goods, should supply Laurel School with such merchandise as he sold as a business. He reiterated that he did not suspect either Messrs. Pindexter or Hutzler as taking advantage of their positions to gather gain or profit from

### SIGNS OF PEACE ON WAR HORIZON

Mexico's Domestic Trials  
and Tribulations May  
End Soon.

### LIMANTOUR AS INTERMEDIARY

His Conference With Madero in  
New York, and Dispatches to  
and From Mexico City, Lead  
to Belief That Basis of  
Settlement Has Been  
Found.

New York, March 16.—The sudden departure from New York of Senor Limantour, the Mexican minister of finance, after a week of conferences and negotiations, the precise nature of which has not hitherto been clear, is now explained by the understanding that he has succeeded in effecting a tentative plan by which substantial reforms are expected to be immediately put in force by the Mexican government, and the leading insurgents, being satisfied, are to aid in obtaining peace.

The presence here at the Hotel Astor of Senor Limantour, the father of the provisional president, together with his three sons (brother of the provisional president); the fact that Limantour has been through three generations the confidential adviser of the Madero family; and the fact that Limantour and the senior Madero have been in conference while important messages have been going back and forth from the finance minister to Mexico City, added significance to the situation.

Peace Reformers. While in Paris, before he left for New York, Limantour declared, through an Associated Press interview, his belief in the need of a number of reforms to meet the just wishes of the insurgents. When leaving here yesterday he said:

"Mistakes have been made, perhaps some of them serious; but this fact is not peculiar to Mexico. Many reforms have been brought about in recent years. Others of even greater importance are under way, and may be made public in the near future."

Simultaneously, a dispatch from Mexico announces that President Diaz, in a conference with a number of citizens of Mazatlan, expressed the belief that he was adopting certain of Limantour's suggestions of reform. Senor Limantour bears with him a full exposition of the demands of the insurgents, and it is hoped, will be acceptable to the Mexican government and made the basis of peace.

This hope is obviously not without a reasonable degree of foundation. After his conference with Francisco Madero, Sr., Mr. Limantour communicated freely with the authorities at Mexico City, and on Tuesday evening received a telegram, which he regarded as sufficient to warrant him in immediately setting out for the capital of his country.

The Maderos were asked a number of pointed questions this afternoon. "You must realize," they said, "that we are in a most delicate position. We cannot talk freely now, but hope soon to make an explicit statement. Why do you want Senor Limantour for your answer? His return is awaited in Mexico with the keenest interest. They want him there to straighten things out."

Terms could not be perfected, they said, without the co-operation of their conferees in the field. They expressed their distrust of any promises that the Mexican government might make, and said it would be impossible to perfect negotiations if there is no prompt condition precedent that they should lay down their arms, since that would mean that the leaders would be hanged as a preliminary measure, and the reforms never carried out.

"The insurgents," said they, "demand radical reforms at a thorough change in the personnel of the administration by having elections." No settlement could be completed until there were an opportunity to confer with the insurgents, and at the front, and there had been no time as yet to consult them. Neither had they any mind to accept overtures with such promptness as would be misconstrued by the government into an evidence of weakness.

What Rebels Would Accept. El Paso, Tex., March 16.—Peace will not be acceptable to the insurgents under any conditions unless President Diaz first agrees to declare his last election invalid and consents to another election according to Gonzalez Garza, the insurgents' provisional secretary of state.

Secondly, he must agree to grant all reforms demanded by the insurgents. These terms must meet on equal terms and without the surrender of arms by the insurgents.

Senor Garza, in substance, made this reply this afternoon to the statement from New York that Senor Limantour was taking steps to settle the Mexican situation. Full details of the transactions between Limantour and the insurgents in Washington and New York, it is said, have been submitted to the insurgents' leaders here. It is said that none of the insurgent leaders in the East has power to conclude terms of peace. These terms would have to be submitted to Francisco I. Madero, Madero is now 100 miles in the interior and communication with him requires several days.

Suppose on a new ballot President Diaz should be elected, would he then be acceptable to the insurgents? Senor Garza was asked.

"Yes. We would accept him. But he never would be elected on a free ballot. We have no faith in him. Madero would be elected."

Senor Garza, who acted here in con-

### Will Retire From Office



S. R. DONOHOE,  
Auditor of Public Accounts of Virginia.

### SHIPPING OF ARMS NO LAW VIOLATION

No Statute Forbids Sending of  
War Munitions Into  
Mexico.

### FINE DISTINCTION DRAWN WILL RETURN TO FAIRFAX

Precedents Brought Forth to  
Show Position This Coun-  
try Has Taken.

Washington, March 16.—Careful study of the neutrality laws has left the administration's advisers doubting gravely if the United States can totally prevent the shipment of arms and munitions to Mexico, or which, in view of the law and its study of the precedents seems to bear out the contention, as viewed by administration officials, that the government can control in a measure the shipments of arms, dealing with each particular case according to the circumstances surrounding it, but there is no general statute which flatly forbids the shipment of arms.

Attorney-General Harmon in 1895 gave an opinion to the State Department regarding shipment of arms to Cuba, and in that opinion he declared that "the mere sale or shipment of arms and munitions of war by persons in the United States to persons in Cuba is not a violation of international law, however strong a suspicion there may be that they are to be used in connection against the Spanish government."

In the Wilburg case, which was one of the filibusters to Cuba, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the opinion of the court below, that it was no crime to transport munitions of war to another country if they were to be used for war or peace, that it was not an offense to transport persons intending to enlist in a foreign army and munitions of war, on the same trip.

Upholds Fine Distinction. The court, however, upheld the fine distinction that it would have been a breach of law if both the persons in tending to enlist and the munitions of war being transported were parts of the same military expedition planned and set on foot in this country.

One case which bears directly on the Mexican situation has been found. It was the case of the United States vs. Yanez, charged with forming an expedition in the United States to invade Mexico. Judge May held that before conviction it must be proved that the design and purpose of the expedition was some attack or invasion of another people or country as a military force. Judge May also held that the mere fact that men armed with rifles had crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico would not constitute in itself to constitute a military enterprise or hostile intent, but the proof must be furnished of what they were doing and what their destination was. The court made plain, however, that if any number of men planned in the United States an attack on Mexico they would be guilty of a violation of the neutrality laws.

While no official opinion has been

made, it is believed that the fine distinction will be maintained.

He gave out the following statement: "I have given the matter much thought, and my conclusion has not, therefore, been reached hastily. When Governor Mann did me the honor to appoint me to the position so long and so ably filled by the lamented Colonel Marve, I did not, in the brief period that I have since had, to consider the matter, realize how great a personal sacrifice it would require of me. My home, as you know, is in Fairfax—more than 100 miles from here. I own valuable newspaper property (the Fairfax Herald) and have other interests there which I cannot afford to relinquish. Furthermore, my family is unalterably opposed to my prolonged absence from the home—an absence such as an election to the office for a full term would necessitate. Under the circumstances I feel that I should retire at the expiration of my term."

(Continued on Second Page.)

### LIGHT OF VICTORY IS SHINING FULL ON IRELAND'S CAUSE

This Is Happiest and Brightest St. Patrick's  
Day, for Battle Has Been Won and  
Deliverance Is at Hand.

### WEARY STRUGGLE OF YEARS IS OVER, AND BITTERNESS LEAVES ALL SOULS

With England and Ireland Joining Hands in Peace,  
and With Proper Place in British Empire As-  
sured by Near Approach of Home Rule, Irish  
Would "Bury Fathoms Deep in Ocean of Ob-  
livion Memory of Wrongs, Miseries and Oppres-  
sions of the Past."

London, March 16.—In honor of St. Patrick's Day and the near approach of home rule for Ireland, several of the Irish leaders to-night issued formal statements and greetings on the occasion of the national anniversary. These included John E. Redmond, chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party and chairman of the United Irish League of Great Britain; William O'Brien, M. P. for Cork, and leader of the Independent Nationalists, and Lord Dunraven, president of the Irish Reform Association.

H. H. Asquith, the Prime Minister, and A. J. Balfour, ex-Premier and leader of the opposition in the House of Commons, declined to make any comment on the probability of home rule, refusing to break the ironclad tradition against Cabinet members giving interviews.

In a speech at the St. Patrick's banquet in the Hotel Cecil to-night, Mr. Redmond referred to how, amid a long list of valuable Irish reforms achieved by hard labor during the past twelve years, they had met year by year at this festival, almost despairing of achieving the great goal of their aspirations.

Full Light of Victory Shines on Ireland. "Now, at last," he said, "we meet with the light of victory shining on our country and our cause. The struggle between England and Ireland is ended. England and Ireland have joined hands against the common foe of both in defense of the people's liberties and rights. All bitterness has left our souls. We want peace with England. We want friendship with the English people. We want our proper place in the British Empire, and to bury fathoms deep in the ocean of oblivion and memory the wrongs, the miseries and the oppressions of the past."

T. P. O'Connor, speaking at the St. Patrick's banquet at Liverpool, said: "This is the brightest and happiest St. Patrick's Day any of us has ever seen. Ireland's deliverance is close at hand. The first step towards the realization of Sir Edward Grey's arbitration proposals must be reconciliation with the Irish people through self-government."

Full of Hope and Eager Expectations. "The home rule bill will be introduced for Ireland next year, and after that great reforms demanded by the democracies of England, Scotland and Wales. We are proud that St. Patrick's Day, 1911, finds Ireland full of hope and eager expectation. We all believe that the Parliament bill will be passed into law in a few weeks; that thus the last obstacle to home rule will be removed. The breakdown of the House of Lords' barrier has been due to Ireland. One of our most powerful allies has been, and is to-day, the sympathy of the American people." (Signed) "JOHN REDMOND."

All Sections Are Ready for Co-operation. "Cordial greetings to our faithful kindred in America on the occasion of our national anniversary. All sections of the Nationalist party are ready for co-operation in testing to the uttermost Mr. Asquith's home rule pledges. It is certain to be offered a considerable measure of devotion next year, if his bill abolishing the Lords' veto can be forced into law this session. Therefore, Mr. Redmond and the members of the 'All-for-Ireland' party are entirely at one in supporting the bill. The difference between us is that Mr. Redmond's friends believe that the veto bill and home rule can best be carried by constituting the Irish party, for all purposes and at any cost to Ireland in other matters, a wing of the Liberal party in their party warfare against the Unionists. We, on the contrary, believe that by involving Ireland in British party quarrels we shall be making it impossible to carry home rule against the solid Unionist opposition and an Irish Protestant minority, driven to bay, while, if Ireland's strength was wisely employed, nothing would be easier than to bring about a settlement of both the Lords and the home rule problems by general consent, in the better spirit which is now beginning to show itself in the Unionist party and among our Protestant countrymen."

"The next six months will show which is the more far-seeing policy. In the meantime let us alone hope for the best, but not hope for too much." (Signed) "WILLIAM O'BRIEN."

That Home Rule Will Come Is Certain. "I wish I could honestly say that to-morrow's sun will rise on bright prospects for Ireland, but I cannot. Home rule will not, in my opinion, be constructed out of the wreck of the British Constitution, and if it were it could not be worked subject to a socialistic single chamber Parliament at Westminster. Judging by their action in killing the land purchase act, I have little faith in a home rule bill satisfactory as to finance emanating from the Radical party, and I dread lest Ireland should be cozened into the acceptance of a measure doomed to failure, and home rule be lost forever."

"Ireland has made enormous sacrifices. She has paid heavily in advance for what? Nobody knows, and in making them she has been manoeuvred into an absolutely false financial position. In view of the fact that seventeen years have elapsed since a home rule bill came up to the House of Lords, and that much water has since flowed under London Bridge, the theory that the Lords' veto is the sole obstacle is manifestly absurd."

"Ireland is to drag the chestnuts out of the fire, if she can, for the Radicals to eat, and she will get burned. That home rule will come is as certain as that the sun will rise to-morrow, but it will come, I think, as a measure consonant with a strong, well balanced, imperial Parliament, and framed along federal lines, and generally acquiesced in, though not necessarily universally approved. I do not believe that it can be achieved by the policy and the actions at present employed. That is my honest opinion, and I can give no other. If events prove me to be entirely wrong, no one will be better pleased than I shall be." (Signed) "DUNRAVEN."

Cheering Message in Form of \$10,000. Boston, Mass., March 16.—A cheering St. Patrick's message was sent to-day to John E. Redmond and his colleagues in the British House of Commons in the form of a \$10,000 remittance from the United Irish League of America. This is the ninth contribution of \$10,000 sent to the Irish party since Mr. Redmond and his colleagues visited this country to attend the Buffalo convention last October.

### MRS. MELBER GUILTY

Slayer of Son Will Serve Rest of Life  
in Prison. Albany, N. Y., March 16.—A minimum sentence of twenty years at hard labor in Auburn prison and a maximum of life imprisonment was imposed to-day by Justice Howard on Mrs. Edith Melber, following her conviction of killing her only child by forcing acid down his throat in a desolate Albany suburb on the night of January 6 last.

A verdict of murder in the second degree was returned by the jury after about two hours' deliberation. After giving the verdict, several jurors sought Mrs. Melber's counsel, and one of them, with tears in his eyes, explained that the jurors had agreed that the rendering of such a verdict would keep Mrs. Melber from the insane asylum, if she is demoted, but would operate to prevent her confinement in such an institution with the chance of a discharge later on insanity proceedings.

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

### CHINA WILL AGREE

Not in Position to Take Issue With  
Russia. Peking, March 16.—The Chinese government declares its intention of agreeing to the points at issue with Russia, and is now drafting a reply to the recently received ultimatum along this line.

The Foreign Board states that it is prepared to accept the establishment of Russian consulates in the places specified by Russia, and also promises to take measures regarding Chinese monopolies in Mongolia, which will permit Russian subjects freedom in the goods of other countries.

It is expected that the Chinese government will endeavor to obtain permission to impose tariffs for the purpose of protecting its prestige domestically.